

Greece - Athens

Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS)

FACT SHEET



The Greece - Athens GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Greece - Athens could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program.

The Greece - Athens GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-9 conducted in 2004.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Greece - Athens. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 92%, the student response rate was 86.1%, and the overall response rate was 79.2%. A total of 1,661 students participated in the Greece - Athens GYTS.

Prevalence

39.7% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boys = 40.8%, Girls = 37.6%)
 25.6% currently use any tobacco product (Boys = 23.8%, Girls = 25.3%)
 14.3% currently smoke cigarettes (Boys = 13.9%, Girls = 13.7%)
 4.3% currently daily cigarette smokers (Boys = 4.5%, Girls = 3.6%)
 6.8% currently smoke cigars (Boys = 8.0%, Girls = 3.9%)
 24.0% ever smokers initiated smoking before age ten (Boys = 28.2%, Girls = 19.1%)
 20.4% of never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year (Boys = 19.9%, Girls = 19.9%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

35.2% usually smoke in public places
 47.5% buy cigarettes in a store
 97.7% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

91.1% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 93.8% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 82.3% think smoking should be banned from public places
 63.2% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 68.6% have one or more parents who smoke
 13.4% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

38.7% want to stop smoking
 57.0% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 64.7% have ever received help to stop smoking

Media and Advertising

69.4% saw anti-smoking media messages vs. 82.5% saw pro media messages on TV
 65.8% saw anti messages vs. 77.4% saw pro messages on billboards
 59.3% saw anti smoking ads vs. 79.5% saw pro-cigarette ads in newspapers or magazines
 23.6% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 20.2% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

63.0% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 50.4% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 59.8% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- Approximately 1 out of 4 students currently use any form of tobacco; 15% currently smoke cigarettes; 7% currently smoke cigars; 1 in five never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next year.
- ETS exposure is very high –9 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; 9 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; almost 7 in 10 students have parents who smoke.
- Two thirds of the students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- Almost 4 in 10 current smokers want to quit; One in 10 feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning.
- Over 7 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. 8 in 10 saw pro messages; 6 in 10 saw anti messages on billboards vs. over 7 in 10 saw pro messages; two thirds saw anti ads in newspapers vs. over 8 in 10 saw pro ads.